Revision of Royalties Payable to Bihar for Mineral Resources

1708. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been considering revision of royalties payable to Bihar for exploration of its mineral resources; if so, what are the rates proposed for each item;

(b) whether it is also a fact that since the last revision of the royalty rates, the issue prices of these items have increased manyfold accruing steep increase of revenue to Government; and

(c) if so, he date of last revision and rates effected therein for respective items?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) To consider the revision of royalty rates on minerals other than coal, lignite, sand for stowing and minor minerals and to make appropriate recommendations to Government, the Central Government constituted a Study Group in March, 1989. The Study Group has submitted its report recently. The rates of royalty for mining various minerals payable by the lease holders to the respective State Government will be revised by the Central Government after taking into consideration the rates recommended by the Study Group in its report.

(b) The rates of royalty are prescribed, as far as possible, on a flat rate per unit weight arrived at on the basis of value of the mineral at pit's head. Therefore, accrual of revenue on account of royalty depends upon the production of the particular mineral in any State in a particular year.

(c) Revision of royalty rates in respect of a number of minerals was last given effect to in May, 1987. The rates of royalty after revision are available in the Gazette Notification No. GSR 458(E) dated 5-5-87 published in Part II, Section 3(i), Extraordinary.

Joint Raid Conducted by the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence

1709. SHRI TINDIVANAN G. VENKATRAMAN: SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any joint raid was conducted by the Enforcement Directorate, Income Tax Department and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence at the premises of Holiday Inn Hotels Ltd., RR Holdings, Deeksha Holdings, Jyotsna Holdings and also at the residential premises of the owners of the company;

(b) whether any incriminatory documents revealing violation of foreign exchange has been unearthed;

(c) if so, the amount involved and nature of violation;

(d) what steps are being taken to bring all the culprits to book;

(e) whether Government consider taking over of Holiday Inn Hotels and other companies which are involved in many scandals; and

(f) if the answer to part(e) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) The Investigation is at a preliminary stage. On completion of investigation by the revenue agencies, action in accordance with the Law will be taken.